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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/851,976	05/10/2001	Osamu Ichiyoshi	WN-2356	4105
30743	7590	09/20/2004	EXAMINER	
WHITHAM, CURTIS & CHRISTOFFERSON, P.C. 11491 SUNSET HILLS ROAD SUITE 340 RESTON, VA 20190				BATES, KEVIN T
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2155		

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/851,976	ICHIYOSHI, OSAMU
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kevin Bates	2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 May 2001.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12-01-03.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to a communication made on May 10, 2001.

The Change of Address was received on October 16, 2002.

The Information Disclosure Statement was received December 1, 2003.

Claims 1 – 21 are pending in this application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 4-12, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Teng (5930473).

Regarding claim 1, Teng discloses a satellite communication conference system using satellite communication (Column 3, lines 48 – 52; Column 6, lines 38 – 44), wherein a content of a comment of a speaker participating in a conference is broadcasted (Column 2, lines 21 – 22; lines 11 – 13; Column 10, lines 50 – 56), via a communication satellite, to a plurality of conference participants each having a satellite communication terminal including receiving means for receiving a signal from said communication satellite (Column 7, lines 16 – 21).

Regarding claim 2, Teng discloses conference center which is connected to a satellite earth station for communication with said communication satellite (Column 5, lines 36 – 43; lines 52 – 63), wherein said conference center comprises back-way

communicating (Column 7, lines 4 – 6) means for accepting a voice request signal from the conference participant and a comment signal from the participant to whom a voice is granted (Column 4, lines 13 – 21) and said content of the comment of the speaker is transmitted to said communication satellite via said back-way communicating means and said satellite earth station (Column 5, lines 36 – 58).

Regarding claim 4, Teng discloses that said satellite earth station comprises, as said back-way communicating means for the participant having the satellite communication terminal including transmitting means to said communication satellite, satellite communicating means for receiving the voice request signal communicated via said communication satellite from the participant and the comment signal from the participant to whom the voice is granted; and means for transferring the signal received by said satellite communicating means to said conference center (Column 4, lines 12 – 29)

Regarding claim 5, Teng discloses that said conference center receives said voice request signal via said back-way communicating means using said ground communication network or said communication satellite, and said voice request signal includes identification information of the participant requesting the voice (Column 4, lines 20 – 29; Column 12, lines 28 – 36; lines 39 – 43).

Regarding claim 6, Teng discloses that said conference center further comprises: chairperson means for determining the participant, as a speaker, to whom the voice is to be granted in response to said voice request signal from the participant (Column 12, lines 28 – 36); and means for broadcasting a voice grant signal via said communication

satellite based on identification information of the participant to whom said voice is to be granted (Column 4, lines 20 – 29; Column 12, lines 39 – 43; lines 44 – 46).

Regarding claim 7, Teng discloses that the terminal of the participant to whom said voice is granted comprises means for transmitting the comment signal to said I conference center via said communication satellite or said ground communication network based on a predetermined, signal format, and said conference center further comprises means for receiving said comment signal which is transmitted from the terminal of the participant to whom said voice is granted; and means for controlling operation to transmit said received content of the comment to said satellite earth station and to broadcast the transmitted content via said communication satellite (Column 10, lines 41 – 56).

Regarding claim 8, Teng discloses that said chairperson means comprises means for controlling operation to broadcast a comment-accepting signal via said communication satellite in a comment accepting state, and for accepting a request for the comment only in the comment accepting state (Column 13, lines 12 – 21; lines 44 – 46).

Regarding claim 9, Teng discloses that said chairperson means controls operation to accept a request for the comment and to grant the voice by predetermined operation based on chairperson's determination (Column 12, lines 28 – 36; lines 44 – 46).

Regarding claim 10, Teng discloses that said chairperson means further comprises means for automatically controlling operation to accept the request for the comment and to grant the voice (Column 13, lines 37 – 42).

Regarding claim 11, Teng discloses that said chairperson means selectively controls operation to grant the voice iii order of arrival, or operation to set a comment time duration to a predetermined time duration, to automatically deprive the voice when said predetermined time duration passes, to shift a state to the comment accepting state, and to accept a new request for the comment (Column 12, lines 57 – 67).

Regarding claim 12, Teng discloses that said conference center further comprises means for accepting an attendance notifying signal from the participant in the conference via said back-way communicating means prior to opening of the conference and for returning an acceptance confirming signal to said accepted participant in the conference (Column 13, lines 12 – 16).

Regarding claim 14, Teng discloses a satellite, communication conference system carrying out conference via a communication satellite (Column 3, lines 48 – 52; Column 6, lines 38 – 44) comprising: a receiving and transmitting terminal having a receiving and transmitting function to said communication satellite (Figure 1, element 20; Column 6, lines 38 – 44); a receiving terminal having only a receiving function to said communication satellite (Column 4, lines 58 – 60); a satellite earth station for communication via said communication satellite (Figure 1, element 20); and a conference center connected to said satellite earth station (Column 5, lines 36 – 43; lines 52 – 63); said conference center and said receiving and transmitting terminal being

capable of connecting via a satellite communication network (Column 5, lines 36 – 43; lines 52 – 63), said conference center and said receiving terminal being capable of connecting via a ground communication network (Figure 1, element 35; Column 7, lines 4 – 6); a content of a comment of a speaker participating in the conference being broadcasted (Column 2, lines 21 – 22; lines 11 – 13; Column 10, lines 50 – 56), via said communication satellite, to a participant having said receiving and transmitting terminal and to a participant having said receiving terminal (Column 7, lines 16 – 21); and said conference center comprising means for receiving a voice request signal from said participant and a comment signal from the participant to whom a voice is granted (Column 4, lines 13 – 21) via said ground communication network for the participant having said receiving terminal (Column 5, lines 36 – 58).

Regarding claim 15, Teng discloses that said earth communication network includes at least one of Internet communication, telephone network, and facsimile communication (Column 7, lines 4 – 10).

Regarding claim 16, Teng discloses a satellite communication conference method using satellite communication, comprising the step of broadcasting a content of a comment of a speaker participating in a conference (Column 2, lines 21 – 22; lines 11 – 13; Column 10, lines 50 – 56), via a communication satellite (Column 3, lines 48 – 52; Column 6, lines 38 – 44), to a plurality of participants in the conference having terminals including a function for receiving a signal from said communication satellite (Column 7, lines 16 – 21).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3, 14-15, and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng in view of Lalwaney (6289377).

Regarding claim 3, Teng does not explicitly indicate that said conference center further comprises communicating means for communication through a ground communication network as said back-way communicating means for the participant having the satellite communication terminal including no transmitting means to said communication satellite (Figure 1, element 20, 25 for the satellite and 35 for the back-way communication). Lalwaney discloses a system that allows a user station with a receive-only satellite receiver, issue requests from a PSTN network, while receiving the information from the satellite connection (Column 2, lines 42 – 47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Teng's system with satellite communication and combine it with Lalwaney's improvement to allow the users having receive only satellite issue requests to the server (Column 1, lines 64 – 67; Teng, Column 4, lines 54 – 59)

Regarding claims 14 and 18, Teng discloses a satellite, communication conference system carrying out conference via a communication satellite (Column 3, lines 48 – 52; Column 6, lines 38 – 44) comprising: a receiving and transmitting terminal having a receiving and transmitting function to said communication satellite

(Figure 1, element 20; Column 6, lines 38 – 44); a receiving terminal having only a receiving function to said communication satellite (Column 4, lines 58 – 60); a satellite earth station for communication via said communication satellite (Figure 1, element 20); and a conference center connected to said satellite earth station (Column 5, lines 36 – 43; lines 52 – 63); said conference center and said receiving and transmitting terminal being capable of connecting via a satellite communication network (Column 5, lines 36 – 43; lines 52 – 63), said conference center and said receiving terminal being capable of connecting via a ground communication network (Figure 1, element 35; Column 7, lines 4 – 6); a content of a comment of a speaker participating in the conference being broadcasted (Column 2, lines 21 – 22; lines 11 – 13; Column 10, lines 50 – 56), via said communication satellite, to a participant having said receiving and transmitting terminal and to a participant having said receiving terminal (Column 7, lines 16 – 21); and said conference center comprising means for receiving a voice request signal from said participant and a comment signal from the participant to whom a voice is granted (Column 4, lines 13 – 21) but Teng does not indicate that those requests can be received from the participant having a receiving function to said communication satellite. Lalwaney discloses a system that allows a user station with a receive only satellite receiver, issue requests from a PSTN network, while receiving the information from the satellite connection (Column 2, lines 42 – 47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Teng's system with satellite communication and combine it with Lalwaney's improvement to allow the users

having receive only satellite issue requests to the server (Column 1, lines 64 – 67; Teng, Column 4, lines 54 – 59)

Regarding claim 15, Teng discloses that said earth communication network includes at least one of Internet communication, telephone network, and facsimile communication (Column 7, lines 4 – 10).

Regarding claim 17, Teng discloses the steps of connecting a conference center to a satellite earth station for communication with said communication satellite; and accepting a request for the comment and the content of the comment by using a ground communication network by said conference center (Column 4, lines 13 – 21), but Teng does not indicate that those requests can be received from the participant having a receiving function to said communication satellite. Lalwaney discloses a system that allows a user station with a receive only satellite receiver, issue requests from a PSTN network, while receiving the information from the satellite connection (Column 2, lines 42 – 47). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Teng's system with satellite communication and combine it with Lalwaney's improvement to allow the users having receive only satellite issue requests to the server (Column 1, lines 64 – 67; Teng, Column 4, lines 54 – 59)

Regarding claim 19, Teng in combination with Lalwaney discloses the steps of (1) declaring opening of the conference at the start of the conference via said communication satellite by a chairperson in said conference center or by a chairperson connected to said conference center via said ground communication network (Column 7, lines 44 – 48); (2) receiving declaration for said opening of the conference and

transmitting an attendance notifying signal to said chairperson via said conference center by way of said ground communication network or said satellite communication network by the participant having the terminal including the receiving and receiving function to said communication satellite or the terminal comprising only the receiving function to said communication satellite (Column 7, lines 44 – 55); (3) forming a list of the participant in the conference, transmitting the formed list to said chairperson, and distributing an acceptance confirming signal including a conference decipher key ciphered by a cipher key designated to each participant in the conference via said ground communication network or via said satellite communication network in accordance with a route of said attendance notifying signal by a chairperson unit in said conference center and thereafter, receiving and deciphering a satellite broadcast signal by using the cipher key, which is distributed by said acceptance confirming signal., by the terminal of the participant (Column 12, lines 28 – 36); (4) broadcasting said list of the participants in the conference via said communication satellite as needs arise, declaring establishment of the conference, and starting the conference by said chairperson (Column 12, lines 26 – 32); and (5) broadcasting the comment of the participant to whom the voice is granted via said chairperson unit by way of said communication satellite (Column 12, lines 44 – 46).

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng in view of Aziz (6330671).

Regarding claim 13, Teng does not explicitly indicate that said conference center further comprises means for distributing a decipher key used for said conference to all

of said participants in the operation to accept the attendance notifying signal of said participant in the conference and in the operation to return the acceptance confirming signal. Aziz discloses a server for multicasting that distributes encryption keys as part of the response to adding the client to a multicast (Column 8, lines 31 – 41; Column 6, lines 4 – 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Aziz's teaching in Teng's conferencing system in order to ensure security of the multicasting that Teng's system performs (Column 1, line 61 – Column 2, line 3).

Claims 18-21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Teng in view of Lalwaney as applied to claims 3, 14-15, and 17-20 above, and further in view of Aziz.

Regarding claim 19, Teng in combination with Lalwaney discloses the steps of (1) declaring opening of the conference at the start of the conference via said communication satellite by a chairperson in said conference center or by a chairperson connected to said conference center via said ground communication network (Column 7, lines 44 – 48); (2) receiving declaration for said opening of the conference and transmitting an attendance notifying signal to said chairperson via said conference center by way of said ground communication network or said satellite communication network by the participant having the terminal including the receiving and receiving function to said communication satellite or the terminal comprising only the receiving function to said communication satellite (Column 7, lines 44 – 55); (3) forming a list of the participant in the conference, transmitting the formed list to said chairperson, and

distributing an acceptance confirming signal (Column 12, lines 28 – 36); (4) broadcasting said list of the participants in the conference via said communication satellite as needs arise, declaring establishment of the conference, and starting the conference by said chairperson (Column 12, lines 26 – 32); and (5) broadcasting the comment of the participant to whom the voice is granted via said chairperson unit by way of said communication satellite (Column 12, lines 44 – 46), but Teng does not explicitly indicate that said conference center further comprises means for distributing a decipher key used for said conference to all of said participants in the operation to accept the attendance notifying signal of said participant in the conference and in the operation to return the acceptance confirming signal. Aziz discloses a server for multicasting that distributes encryption keys as part of the response to adding the client to a multicast (Column 8, lines 31 – 41; Column 6, lines 4 – 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Aziz's teaching in Teng's conferencing system in order to ensure security of the multicasting that Teng's system performs (Column 1, line 61 – Column 2, line 3).

Regarding claim 20, Teng discloses the steps of (6) setting a comment accepting state when the comment is obtained from the participant, and broadcasting a comment accepting signal by said chairperson (Column 13, lines 8 – 13); (7) when said comment accepting signal is received, displaying such a fact on said terminal of the participant, and transmitting the voice request signal to said conference center via said ground communication network or via said satellite communication network by the participant desiring to add the comment (Column 13, lines 12 – 16); (8) selecting one of the

participants requesting the comment by said chairperson, and forming the voice grant signal and broadcasting the formed signal via said communication satellite by said chairperson unit (Column 13, lines 6 – 16); (9) displaying a comment permitting state by the terminal of the participant to whom the voice is granted when the voice grant signal is received from said communication satellite (Column 13, lines 12 – 20); (10) transmitting the comment signal to said conference center by the participant of the terminal on which said comment permitting state is displayed (Column 12, lines 44 – 54); (11) confirming the signal from the participant to whom the voice is granted, thereafter, forming a broadcast signal including said comment signal, and broadcasting the formed broadcast signal via said communication satellite by said chairperson unit (Column 12, lines 44 – 54); (12) when end of the comment is inputted by said terminal of the speaker, detecting a comment end signal, by said chairperson unit and shifting to the comment accepting state, or forcedly ending the comment by said chairperson to enter in the comment accepting state and broadcasting the comment accepting signal by said chairperson unit (Column 12, lines 62 – 67); and (13) declaring close of the conference at end of the conference, broadcasting the declaration via said communication satellite by said chairperson, and disconnecting a satellite line by said chairperson unit (Column 12, lines 57 – 62).

Regarding claim 21, Teng discloses the steps of (A) automatically broadcasting an opening declaring signal via said communication satellite at scheduled time of start of the conference by said chairperson unit in the conference center (Column 7, lines 44 – 48); (B) when said opening declaring signal is received, transmitting an attendance

notifying signal to said chairperson unit from the terminal including the receiving and transmitting function to said communication satellite or the terminal including only the receiving function to said communication satellite (Column 7, lines 44 – 55); (C) forming a list of the participant in the conference and distributing an acceptance confirming signal (Column 12, lines 28 – 36); (D) broadcasting said list of the participants in the conference via said communication satellite as needs arise, declaring establishment of the conference, and starting the conference by said chairperson unit (Column 12, lines 44 – 46); (E) broadcasting a notifying signal in the comment accepting state and waiting for the voice request signal from the participant by said chairperson unit (Column 13, lines 8 – 13); (F) selecting one of the participants requesting the comment based on a predetermined format when said voice request signal is received, and broadcasting the voice grant signal by said chairperson unit (Column 13, lines 6 – 16); (G) broadcasting the comment signal of the participant to whom the voice is granted via said communication satellite; (H) notifying said chairperson unit of return of the voice by broadcasting a return signal at the end of comment by the speaker, or forcedly depriving the voice, entering to the comment accepting state, and broadcasting the comment accepting state by said chairperson unit if a predetermined comment restricting time duration passes (Column 12, lines 62 – 67), and (I) broadcasting close of the conference by a close declaring signal if a predetermined conference time duration passes and disconnecting the satellite line by said chairperson unit (Column 12, lines 57 – 62), but Teng does not explicitly indicate that said conference center further comprises means for distributing a decipher key used for said conference to all of said

participants in the operation to accept the attendance notifying signal of said participant in the conference and in the operation to return the acceptance confirming signal. Aziz discloses a server for multicasting that distributes encryption keys as part of the response to adding the client to a multicast (Column 8, lines 31 – 41; Column 6, lines 4 – 10). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Aziz's teaching in Teng's conferencing system in order to ensure security of the multicasting that Teng's system performs (Column 1, line 61 – Column 2, line 3).

Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U. S. Patent No. 5835129 issued to Kumar, because it discloses a complex messaging system with data signals and video signals in a satellite system.

U. S. Patent No. 4882743 issued to Mahmoud, because it discloses a satellite conferencing system that has receive-only and transmit only time periods, and requesting control of the transmit time periods.

U. S. Patent No. 5915091 issued to Ludwig, because it discloses multicasting of a video conference and issuing requests to make a video comment.

U. S. Patent No. 5003532 issued to Ashida, because it discloses choosing a speaker and sending his data signals to other participants.

U. S. Patent No. 5565911 issued to Ishikawa, because it discloses requests to a server for a spot for comments and display.

U. S. Patent No. 5867653 issued to Aras, because it discloses an arbitrator and coordinator to decide the speaker and the participants.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Bates whose telephone number is (703) 605-0633 (or (571) 272-3980 after 10/27/2004). The examiner can normally be reached on 8 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (703) 308-6662. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KB

KB
September 16, 2004


HOSAIN ALAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER